GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3579
ANSWERED ON:07.04.2003
DECLINE IN WATER LEVEL IN COASTAL STATES
BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a sharp decline in ground water level in the coastal States during the last decade;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have launched any comprehensive plan to recharge the ground water to avoid salinity and overcome water crisis in the country; and

(d) if so, the funds allocated/released to State Governments during the last three years, year-wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI)

(a) & (b) The Central Ground Water Board, under the Ministryof Water Resources, regularly monitors the ground water levels in various parts, including coastal areas of the country. The names of the districts in coastal States having pockets with fall in water level in the last decade (1992-2001) are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) Water being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to plan, finance and execute schemes for augmenting water resources including rain water harvesting and to arrest salinity ingress. The Central Governmenthas initiated following measures to recharge the underground water source:-

(i) Implementation of a Central Sector Scheme for Study of Recharge to Ground Water in the country.

(ii) Circulation of Manual/Guidelines on Artificial Recharge of Ground Water to the States/Union Territories to enable them to formulate area specific artificial recharge schemes to check the declining trend in ground water levels.

(iii) Organisation of mass awareness programmes and training courses on rain water harvesting and artificial recharge of ground water.

(iv) Constitution of Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for regulation and control of ground water management and development.

(v) Launching of a website on Roof Top Rain Water Harvesting (www.cgwbindia.com) to make aware and educate the public about various techniques of harvesting rainwater and store it for future use.

(d) The Central Ground Water Board implemented demonstrative rainwater harvesting and recharge projects in the country under its Central Sector Scheme for "Study of Rechargeto Ground Water'. Under this scheme, funds amounting to Rs. 619.55 lakh, 1408.36 lakh and 780.37 lakh were released to State Governments for implementation of the approved projects during the years 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 respectively.

STATEMENTREFERRED TO IN REPLY OF PARTS (a) & (b) OF LOKSABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3579 DATED 07.04.2003.

Name of the Districts (in parts) of coastal States showing fall of Water Level of More than 4 m. in Last decade (1992-2001) (Pre-monsoon Period)

Sl. No.	States	Fall in Water Level @ more than 20 cm per year)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	West Godavari, Nellore, Prakasam, Srikakulam, Visakhapatnam,

2.	Gujarat	Kutch, Jamnagar, Junagarh, Bhavnagar, Amreli, Ahmedabad, Kheda, Baroda, Bharuch, Surat, Valsad.
3.	Karnataka	Dakshin Kannada, Uttar Kannada.
4.	Kerala	Kannur, Kozhikode Trichur, Thiruvananthapuram.
5.	Maharashtra	NIL
6.	Orissa	Ganjam, Cuttack, Balasore, Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur.
7	Tamil Nadu	Kanya Kumari, Tirunelveli.
8.	West Bengal	Medinipur, South 24 Pargnas.